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-5-

OCT 24 2006

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Actions of July 28, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 8 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1, 2, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Haentjens or Hölss.

Claims 3-6 and 8 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Discussion

Haentjens discloses a drag pump in which a rotor moves gas from an inlet 15 and inlet chamber 14 to a discharge chamber 16 and discharge outlet 17. The diameter of the rotor and the stator *increases* from the suction side at 14 to the pressure side at 16. The pitch of the channels 61 *increases* from the suction side at 14 to the pressure side at 16. The depth of the channel 61 decreases from the suction side to the pressure side.

By contrast, claim 1 calls for the rotor outer diameter and the stator inner diameter to *decrease* from the suction side to the pressure side. Claim 1 also calls for the pitch of the webs to *decrease* from the suction side to the pressure side. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Haentjens.

In Haentjens, helically threaded portions 8, 10 alternate on the rotor and stator. In the enlargement of Figure 2, these threaded sections appear to have a constant pitch. The pitch does not decrease from the suction to the stator side as recited in claim 1. Moreover, claim 1 has been amended to call for the stator to have a smooth inner surface which is free of ribs and projections. In Hölss, the helical sections 10 of the stator of Hölss are integral parts of the pumping action. Accordingly, it is submitted that there is no motivation to eliminate the stator channels. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by and distinguishes patentably over Hölss.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 2 and 3 distinguishes patentably over the references of record for the reasons set forth above.

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-6-

OCT 24 2006

Claims 4, 5, and 8 have been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

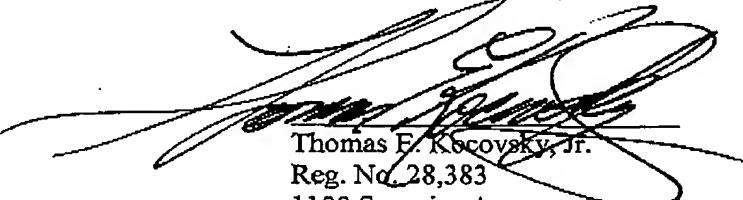
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1-6 and 8 distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet the other statutory requirements. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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